above Rs. 5 lakh and upto Rs. 25 lakh for SSI/ tiny units. The RBI's instructions already exist to the banks for grant of loans upto Rs. 5 lakh to the SSI units without collaterals.

Mission to Moon

5100. SHRI BALBIR K. PUNJ : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a 'fact that ISRO is working on a programme to put first Indian on the moon;

(b) if so, whether it would serve any purpose; and

(c) what are India's space plans for the next five years either in collaboration or independently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF SPACE (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE) : (a) No, Sir. However, an unmanned orbiting spacecraft mission to moon is planned.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The Space programme during next five years is directed towards strengthening the space based services for the socio-economic development of the country. The major thrust areas of the planned programmes are the following :

- Augmenting the INSAT system with fourth generation INSAT-4 satellites to meet the National needs in the area of communications, broadcasting and information infrastructure and expansion of the satellite communication network for developmental purposes including Healthcare, Education and Rural Development.
- Enhance the earth observational capability with all-weather microwave system and provide continuity of remote sensing data to support National Natural Resource Information System, Disaster Management Support, developmental activities and improved weather and ocean state forecast.
- Continuation flights of Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV) to meet launch requirements, operationalisation of Geo-synchronous Satellite Launch Vehicle (GSLV) and Development of advanced GSLV Mk.III.
- Focussed research in the area of space science, astronomy and planetary science.